

UK Business Data Cheat Sheet

Overview

A list of **registered companies and people linked to them**. Most data is accessed through Companies House or the ICO, which provides open access to:

- **Company registrations – 5.5m**
- **Directors and former officers – 10m – 20m**
- **Persons of Significant Control (PSC) – 14m**
- **Minority shareholders – 2m+**
- **Handling personal data – 1.1m**
- **Filing history and confirmation statements – 50m+**

Why It Matters

- Identify individuals **behind a company**
- Confirm **residential or service addresses** of directors
- Map **networks** of related businesses or shared ownership
- Discover **undeclared interests** or financial red flags

Limitations

- **Service addresses** — Directors may **mask residence** with PO boxes
- **PSC threshold** — Only those with **>25% interest** are listed
- **Minority shareholders** — **Not visible or searchable** outside full filings
- **Name inconsistencies** — Spelling, initials, and middle names **affect matching**
- **No identity verification** — Until Summer 2025, **Companies House does not verify the identity of directors or PSCs**.

Tips and Considerations

- Search both company's and directors' names
- Review confirmation statements to **find minority shareholders**
- Use PSC history to **spot ownership changes** or control shifts
- Link company activity to **trading addresses** via ICO, domains, or planning applications

Investigation Support

- **Due Diligence** — Understand **company control** and financial links
- **Fraud Investigations** — Uncover **undeclared income** or serial liquidations
- **Beneficial Ownership Mapping** — Link **shell companies** to real people
- **Asset Tracing** — Link companies to **planning records, land, or rental assets**
- **Journalism & Public Interest** — Investigate **political donors, landlords, or offshore links**
- **Executive Background Checks** — Surface control of unknown or **side businesses**
- **Financial Compliance / KYC** — Screen for **risk indicators** before onboarding

Where to Search

- **Companies House** — Company profiles, PSCs, filings
- **ICO Register** — Sole traders and businesses handling data
- **Public Insights** — Name-based business record searches, minority shareholder extraction
- **OpenCorporates** — International company search
- **Companies House Unlock** — Group directors by DOB

About Public Insights

Public Insights helps investigators find addresses, associates, and financial signals tied to UK people and businesses — all from a single search. The platform brings together government and commercial records to uncover properties, companies, directorships, insolvencies, and more. Designed for OSINT workflows, it's the starting point for investigations into fraud, due diligence, asset tracing, and more. Try Public insights today at cradle.publicinsights.uk/accounts/signup to see how our platform can support your investigation workflows.